

# ***Egypt Group 7***

***Mythology, Beliefs, Religion***

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# *Egyptian mythology*

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# *Egyptian mythology*

A myth is a story that is passed down from generation to generation that expresses their culture, lifestyle and religion. The foundation of

Egyptian mythology is the Pharaoh. The pharaoh was a embodiment of gods on earth and when he passed he was even considered to be Osiris, the god of death and the underworld. One aspect of mythology that is the most important is the afterlife and the underworld. Like other religions egypt's myths include their gods a lot. Here is a breakdown of some of the gods:

# Gods

**Ra:** Ra is the sun god. He symbolized with the solar disk and is connected to light and heat. He wears the solar disk on top of a hawk's head. He can also change his form to become different shapes.

**Thoth:** Thoth is the god of learning and wisdom. He is Ra's son and is known to be the god with no mother. He has the head of a sacred Egyptian bird the ibis. Usually the ibis's head is under a crescent disk.

**Osiris:** Osiris is the god of the underworld. This is because after his death and resurrection he did not fully return to earth; instead he became the god of the underworld, allowing his son to takeover.

**Isis:** Isis is considered the greatest goddess in Egyptian mythology. She is Osiris's wife and together they were parents to Horus who ruled earth. Isis also brought back Osiris after he was brutally murdered by his brother Seth.

**Seth:** Seth was the god of chaotic forces, which is why people refer to him as god of the storms and deserts. Seth was Osiris's brother and Seth helped Ra (the sun god) when he needed to journey into the underworld every night. But as Osiris became more important Seth became jealous and ended up murdering Osiris.

**Anubis:** Anubis used to be the god of the underworld but could not be when Osiris took over. So now he is the god of death and dying. He is also known as the guardian of the dead because he was the one who led the souls to either Osiris or Anubis the goddess of destruction.

# Gods

Hathor is the goddess of fertility and love. She is often shown as a cow or a woman wearing a headdress. But when Ra sends her to destroy people on earth she becomes sakhmet, goddess of war and destiny.

Sakhmet: sakhmet is a close friend of Ptah,(the designer of the universe). She starts out as Hathor goddess of love and fertility but when Ra asked her to destroy all Of his enemies. Her name means powerful one and she wears the head of a lioness.

Khonsu: Krosnu is the god of time and moon and is thought similarly to bes, to have powers to drive away evil spirits from humans. Many Egyptian pieces of work show him as a mummy with a curved moon resting above his head.

Mut: Mut is the “mother-goddess” of all goddesses. She shows her powerful by either wearing a lion headdress or a vulture headdress. She is married to Amun Ra making her queen of the heavens.

Ptah:Some consider Ptah to be the greatest god, so great that all the other gods are use incarnations of him. He is also thought to be the designer of the universe. He is shown as a mummy holding a scepter. He is thought to create everything in the world. Some small communities such as the one in Memphis also considered him as the god of artist.

Sobek: Sobek is known as the crocodile god because of his crocodile appearance. He is the god of fertility of people and their crops. He is also associated with water.

RA-Herakhti: RA-Herakhti is an incarnation of Ra. The only thing is that he lives on earth. He is linked to the horizon and in early mythology he is shown as a king

# Other characters in Myths

Montu: Montu is linked to winning wars. He is close friends with Amun and later, becomes his adopted son. Montu is often shown with a hawk's head. He has a sacred bull, which is believed to be the soul of Ra.

Abutu-fish: A magical fish that appears with Ra's boat at sunrise

Amun: usually Amun is shown wearing a crown with feathers in it. He is the god of the wind. When he is joined with Ra he becomes Amun-ra. This makes him the supreme god of Egypt

Bes: Bes was a dwarf god who guarded many things against misfortune and evil spirits. He guarded pleasure, music, dance and he even protected the pharaohs and a god of a children. He also protected homes by killing pests, warding off evil, babysitting, encouraging fertility and adding women in labor.

Apophis: apophis is A deadly serpent and is the chief demon of the night.he attacks others with mist and his goal is to destroy ra and his goal is to prevent the sun from rising each morning.

# The creation of Ra

There are many myths that ancient Egyptians have passed on and I will talk about one of them, being the story of Ra. The story of Ra originated in the city of Heliopolis (upper Egypt) and was the center of worship for sun god Ra. Ra was one of the first gods. Because Ra was very important he was greatly admired by the Egyptians.

And so  
the  
story  
begins

...



Ra

# Ra creates...

From deep within the dark waiters a being (Ra) wills himself into existence. Ra fills his mouth with water and spits out 2 children- a boy named shu and a girl named tefnut. By doing this instead of one god he becomes three. He sends Shu and Tefnut away to chase away the darkness They fly away leaving Ra behind. While they are gone Ra creates an eye then he sends it away with a mission to find his children.



*Ra's Eye*



*Tefnut*



*Shu*



# Geb and nut



Geb



Nut

When the eye returns to Ra he sees that Ra has another eye in his face! The first eye became very angry. Because of this Ra gives the eye the power of the sun and the eye on his face the power of the moon. Ra weeps. He is in awe of his creation.

His tears give birth to men and women.

Meanwhile Shu and Tefnut have grown up and formed a bond. They make twins Geb, goddess of the earth and Nut, goddess of the sky. Shu separates them and then the heavens are created. Nut gives birth to 5 more gods; Osiris the king, Horus the elder, Seth, god of the disasters, Isis the queen, and Nephthys, goddess of the house. These gods take their place with the reattach of Ra's children-part of the great ennead, or group of nine they will make all future life except for one last god.

# Some of Nuts Children



*Isis*



*Horus the elder*



*Osiris*

## *Ra takes form of Keppri*

Ra creates the very last god, Thonth. He is a very clever and powerful son.

Thonth is the god of wisdom and learning. He has the head of an ibis and is known to be the god with no mother. As Ra's journey begins he rises from the waters of the nun in his solar boat. It is made of the sun. Ra is ready to bathe the world in light. At the beginning of this journey he takes the form of keppri, the scrab ( a type of beetle).the boat rises up with Hourus steering the the rudder. Then more gods appear - maat the goddess of truth and nehebeka, the goddess of revival. A pharaoh who had died recently and was resurrected by nehebka rides in the bow . He looks after keppri's jar of water



*Thonth*



*Keppri*

# The appearance of Ra and Into the underworld



Ra

As the boat climbs upward Keppri's radiance grows stronger and at the height of his power he becomes Ra the sun god. As the day wears on Ra's power begins to fade. He changes into his human form, called Atum. As they drop behind the western mountains they prepare to enter Tuat the underworld. As they enter, the legion of devils sprang from the darkness.

## *Ra's Victory*

The serpent's name is Apophis. This fierce night-demon attacks the boat... Atum steps in and throws a deadly sunbolt. Apophis counter attacks with an eclipse. It blocks out the sun's rays. Then Atum transforms into a cat and finally kills Apophis. The serpent's body is chopped into a hundred pieces. His blood stains the evening sky. Triumph! Ra rises to light another day.



*Apophis*

# *Egyptian Beliefs*

*Lauren Bridges*

# The Sun God

The Egyptian religion mostly consisted of their very important gods. These gods were very important to the Egyptian religion because the Egyptians relied on their gods to do things in their everyday lives, and to survive. One important god that the Egyptians worshiped was Amun-Ra. At first, Amun-Ra was known as Ra who was also known for being the “Sun God.” And not only did he create himself, but he was also the creator of the entire universe, making him known for beings the creator of all things. He was believed to have much power, making historians believe that the ancient Egyptian people might have had monotheistic beliefs. And because he was so praised, the priest of ancient Egyptian god Amun-Ra would receive so many gifts, and land, that they once controlled about half of Egypt's wealth.



# The Gods of the Underworld

## *Who are they?*

Two very important gods in ancient Egyptian times were Osiris, and his sister, and wife, Isis. According to legend, he gave the Egyptian people laws, and taught them to learn farming. On the other hand, his wife Isis was represented to be a faithful mother and wife. But together, the two ruled over the world of the dead.

## *How does this relate to beliefs?*

The Egyptians believed that not only was Osiris the ruler of the dead, but he also had the a power that could grant life from the underworld. From almost 2000 B.C.E. onward, it was believed that at death, every man became associated with Osiris. Isis, the goddess of magic and healing, was a very important asset to Egyptian religion. Today she is known as Isis, but the Egyptians called her Aset, which would translate to “Queen of the Throne.” This name would address to her headdress, which was a throne.





Egyptian gods Osiris and Isis.

# Hapi, the River God

Hapi was believed to be the god, and reason for the flooding of the Nile River.

# *Egyptian Religion*

*Aaren roberts*

# Amenhotep III

The oldest form of religious worship in Egypt was animal worship.

Akhenaten was a king who led a religious revolution against the gods and religion of his own country. Akhenaten was the second son of the pharaoh Amenhotep III.

Amenhotep ruled Egypt from 1370 to 1353 BC. He was the eldest surviving son of the pharaoh Thutmose IV. Thutmose left behind a stable country when he died.



# Amenhotep and Family

**Amenhotep married Tiye. Tiye's father was Yuya. Yuya was an important government official. Tiye was equal and just as important to her husband. Such triads were worshipped: Osiris, Isis (Wife of Osiris), Horus (Son); Ptah, Sekhmet (Wife of Ptah), Nefertem (Son); Amen, Mut (Wife of Amen), Khonsu (Son.)**

**Amenhotep had 7 other wives. But, Amenhotep and Tiye had 6 children. They had 2 sons. Thutmose, Amenhotep. (Later named Akhenaten). Four daughters, Sitamun, Henuttaneb, Ises, Nebetah. Sitamun may have married her father, but they have a daughter named Baketaten. The custom of marrying one's own child was normalized. They practiced this so their child could be "double royal."**



Amenhotep III and Queen Tiye

# Basic Religion

The ancient Egyptians had no word for religion. Religion was not separate from other topics for them. They practiced rituals in the temples, but also in their homes. They didn't believe in any supernatural beings, called netjer, that influenced people's lives, either for good or bad. Egyptian religion was greatly influenced by the natural world. The Egyptians did not worship nature, but they gained their knowledge of the gods through nature. The landscape, plants and animals all had religious significance. The Nile River and the hot sun played major roles in the Egyptian beliefs. Religious beliefs were not always consistent.

# More Religion

Different gods were sometimes given credit for the same events. The first written evidence for Egyptian gods comes from Dynasty 0 (c. 3100–3000 BCE ) and the Early Dynastic Period (c. 3000– 2675 BCE ). The oldest religious texts known in the world are found on the walls of pyramids of the last king of Dystany. At first only royalty were buried with these texts. Later coffin texts were replaced with funeral spells. These funeral spells were painted on tomb walls or written on papyrus and buried with the dead. These spells, called the Book of Going Forth by Day, or the Book of the Dead, were used until the end of the Roman period of Egyptian history (30 – BCE 700 CE ). In addition to the Book of the Dead, the New Kingdom pharaohs (c. 1539–1075 BCE ) included Underworld Books in their tombs. These books described the nightly journey of the sun through the underworld, and dead pharaohs hoped to join the sun god on this voyage.

# Amenhotep family tree

